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THE ARMY AND NAVY:

A DEMONSTRATION

OF THE

USELESSNESS OF VACCINATION.

By Professor Alfred Russel Wallace.

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(1) The doctors always claim that, though the effect of vaccination in infancy wears out, yet re-vaccination offers an almost complete protection for the rest of the person's life. In a circular issued in 1884, and up to the time of the Royal Commission widely distributed *with the approval* of the *Local Government Board*, it is stated that: "Soldiers who have been re-vaccinated can live in cities intensely affected by small-pox without themselves suffering to *any appreciable degree* from the disease." I will now show you that this statement is *absolutely false.*

(2) All soldiers and sailors are re-vaccinated on entering the service, unless they have recently had small-pox. The reports of the Royal Commission give the small-pox deaths in the Army and Navy from 1860 to 1894. The Registrar-General gives the total mortality from disease in the two services for the same period. I have compared these two mortalities by means of a diagram constructed from the tables, and this is what we find. First, throughout

the whole period the total mortality from all diseases in the Army is much higher than in the Navy. Clearly, this is the result of the one class living in barracks, largely in towns and cities, the other in the midst of the pure and bracing sea air.

In the second place, there has been, in both services, throughout the thirty-four years a continuous diminution of mortality, so that it is now only about one-third of what it was thirty-four years ago; and this enormous improvement is stated by the Army and Navy doctors to be due to the much better *sanitation* of ships and barracks, and to the great improvement in the *food* and general *treatment* and *medical* attention in both services.

Thirdly, in both Army and Navy there has been a large decrease in the small-pox mortality throughout the whole period, corresponding closely with that of the general mortality, and certainly due to the same causes—improved sanitation and medical treatment.

Fourthly, in the very same years (1871-2) as the great epidemic in England and on the Continent, there was also a small-pox epidemic both in the Army and the Navy, and taking account of the age of the men and their condition of constant medical supervision, quite as severe as among the general population, who had *not* the alleged *complete protection* of re-vaccination.

Fifthly, this is proved by two comparisons—with Ireland and with Leicester, from tables given in the Reports of the Royal Commission extending from

1864 to 1894. The diagrams formed from these tables show us that Irishmen of about the *same ages* as our soldiers and sailors suffered more during the epidemic of 1872, but for the remainder of the thirty years they had rather less small-pox mortality; while since 1881 they have had *not half the small-pox mortality.*

(3) The other comparison is with Leicester, which city, in the period of twenty years (1873-1892), during which they have been growing less and less vaccinated, has had a total of only 16 small-pox deaths per 100,000 of its population, which includes thousands of unvaccinated children and infants; while for the same period the deaths in the Army and Navy amounted to over 70 per 100,000.

And yet we have had the impudently false statement circulated by thousands, under the approval of the Local Government Board, that the re-vaccinated Army and Navy do not, under the worst circumstances, "appreciably suffer!" The Royal Commission, on the other hand, shirk the whole matter—make no comparisons with other populations—but state vaguely that "particular classes" who have been "exceptionally" re-vaccinated exhibit "quite exceptional advantages in relation to small-pox,"—a statement which, as regards the only "exceptionally" re-vaccinated large classes of men, is, as their own tables show, the very reverse of the truth, since they suffer much more than the least vaccinated class of about equal population in the whole kingdom.

It is thus absolutely demonstrated that it is the exceptionally *unvaccinated* that possess the excep-

tional advantages, while the "exceptionally *re-vaccinated*" Army and Navy show quite exceptional *disadvantages*, in a small-pox mortality during the same twenty years, more than *four* times as great as the exceptionally *unvaccinated* town of Leicester!

But the learned men of the Royal Commission never put these two facts side by side, so that the Government and the public might draw their own conclusions from them. So far as their Final Report shows, these gentlemen were ignorant or oblivious of the very existence of these facts, which conclusively prove that Vaccination is not only a *worthless* but an *injurious* operation—a Gigantic Medical Imposture!

(4) For the reasons now stated, we call upon voters of all parties to refuse support to every candidate who upholds the legal or other enforcement of vaccination, which, as we have shown, both spreads disease and increases mortality. No government has the right to order healthy infants to be blood-poisoned, under the pretence of protection against a danger that may never arise. The abolition of all laws enforcing or encouraging vaccination is therefore of more immediate and vital importance than any party dogma or any political programme.

NOTE.—The evidence against vaccination and the misstatements of doctors and officials are fully and clearly set forth in the author's pamphlet—"Vaccination a Delusion," to be obtained from the National Anti-Vaccination League, price 10½d., post free.

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